all probability have made their communication to him the subject of a special message to Congress.

Be this, however, as it may, the commissioners, immediately after their arrival in Washington, were confronted on the morning of December 27th by a despatch from Charleston announcing that Major Anderson had transferred his command from Fort Moultrie to Fort Sumter.

Anderson, with two small companies, in all about 100 officers and men, had been stationed at Fort Moultrie, on the north side of the harbor of Charleston. As for the other two forts,—Castle Pinckney, a small work, near the city, and Fort Sumter, which had been erected on a ledge in the middle of the harbor, but was not then, completed, at least as regarded its internal arrangements,—neither of them was garrisoned.[2] A captain of engineers, Foster,[3] was engaged in putting the latter post in order to receive its armament and garrison whenever it should be determined to make it ready for occupancy. Fort Moultrie was not capable of making a strong defence if attacked on the land side; it had not been built with any such purpose, and it was moreover commanded by sand hills at a distance of only 160 yards.[4] Fort Sumter, on the other hand, was in the midst of the sea, more than a mile

from. Fort Moultrie, and two-thirds of a mile from Cumming's

[1] Crawford, 64.
[2] In a letter to the Adjutant-General,—i, W. R., 74, 75,—dated November 23d, Major Anderson strongly advised the Government to garrison both of these forts.
[3] Afterwards Major-General John G. Foster.
[4] I W. R., 88,